



A. Examples of Appropriate Indications for Indwelling Urethral Catheter Use

Patient has acute urinary retention or bladder outlet obstruction

Need for accurate measurements of urinary output in critically ill patients

Perioperative use for selected surgical procedures:

- Patients undergoing urologic surgery or other surgery on contiguous structures of the genitourinary tract
- Anticipated prolonged duration of surgery (catheters inserted for this reason should be removed in PACU)
- Patients anticipated to receive large-volume infusions or diuretics during surgery
- Need for intraoperative monitoring of urinary output

To assist in healing of open sacral or perineal wounds in incontinent patients

Patient requires prolonged immobilization (e.g., potentially unstable thoracic or lumbar spine, multiple traumatic injuries such as pelvic fractures)

To improve comfort for end of life care if needed

B. Examples of Inappropriate Uses of Indwelling Catheters

As a substitute for nursing care of the patient or resident with incontinence

As a means of obtaining urine for culture or other diagnostic tests when the patient can voluntarily void

For prolonged postoperative duration without appropriate indications (e.g., structural repair of urethra or contiguous structures, prolonged effect of epidural anaesthesia, etc.)